

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 remain in the application and claim 1 is independent. The Office Action dated October 7, 2009 has been received and carefully reviewed. Each issue raised in the Office Action is addressed below. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Request for Examiner Interview

Upon receipt of the instant amendment, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner Anthony Perry telephone Applicants' representative Paul T. Sewell at 703-205-8000 to set up an Interview to discuss the instant amendment. It is submitted that the conduct of such an Interview prior to the Examiner's taking the amended application up for consideration may simplify the issues under consideration and facilitate prompt conclusion of the prosecution.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masataka in view of Terao. Applicants submit the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and respectfully traverse the rejection. A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the cited references must teach or suggest each and every element in the claims. See MPEP § 706.02(j) and MPEP §§ 2141-2144.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a display apparatus including, *inter alia*, on the substrate, a display region where the plurality of electrode patterns extend in parallel with one another at a first spacing, a terminal region where the one ends of said plurality of electrode patterns in the display region are arranged at a second smaller spacing, and a connection part where the plurality of electrode patterns in the display region are respectively

connected to the corresponding one ends in the terminal region are provided, the connection part is constituted by a segment A which extends slantwise with respect to the first direction in the display region and a segment B which extends in the first direction to the terminal region, in each of the electrode patterns, the higher resistance region includes the terminal region and is formed such that it continues to the terminal region in the connection region, provided that in the outermost electrode of the electrode patterns, the segment A does not have the higher resistance region, and the plurality of electrode patterns have substantially the same resistivity value from the one end to the other end. Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Masataka and Terao.

In an effort to advance the prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the following four features: (i) features from claim 4, (ii) the features of segments A and B, (iii) the feature that in the outermost electrode of the electrode patterns, segment A does not have the higher resistance region, and (iv) the features of claim 3. The Examiner states that it would be obvious in view of the teachings at 2a and 2b as shown in Figures 5 and 6 of Terao to include such feature in Masataka to reduce the resistance therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Masataka nor Terao, either alone or in combination properly address the features of claim 1 as now amended. Applicants make reference to a comparison of Figure of Masataka and Figure 6 of the instant application by way of example. One of the features of the segment B of the present application (shown labeled as B consisting of B1 and B2 between scanning lines 21a and area 21T of the connection part 21) is that the pattern on the outermost side that has the longest wiring length provides a length of zero (as described in paragraph [0034] on page 8 of the specification), which means that the outermost side of the segment B does not have a higher resistance region. On the other hand, the outermost side of Masataka clearly has a higher resistance region since the length can clearly be seen not to be zero. More particularly, note that in Figure 1 of Masataka all of the layers 20 in the B region, including the outer two conductive layers 20 extending in the first direction and have high resistance regions not covered by lines 3. Moreover, in Masataka, the reference describes that "The length or widths up to the extension end parts of respective first metallic

layers are set so that wiring resistances become roughly equal.” See paragraph [0014] and the Abstract. The reference also indicates that “The video signal line 3 constituted in a laminated film consisting of successive laminations of Cr and Al is made to extend partway of the wiring pathway to the electrode 7a roughly in proportion to the length of the wiring pathway.”(emphasis added) Thus, even when a high resistance region is made simply in proportion to the length or width, the resistivity value of the electrode pattern of each of the electrode groups cannot be the same with any accuracy.

Terao teaches reducing the resistivity of conductors by the application of additional layers of low resistance metal, such as at 2b, but there is nothing within Terao that shows or suggests that there be a connection part constituted by a segment A which extends slantwise with respect to the first direction in the display region and a segment B which extends in the first direction to the terminal region, in each of the electrode patterns, the higher resistance region includes the terminal region and is formed such that it continues to the terminal region in the connection region, provided that in the outermost electrode of the electrode patterns, the segment A does not have the higher resistance region, and the plurality of electrode patterns have substantially the same resistivity value from the one end to the other end, and thereby Terao cannot address the deficiencies of Masataka discussed above.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Masataka and Terao, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested. With regard to dependent claims 2 and 4-17, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2 and 4-17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2 and 4-17 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

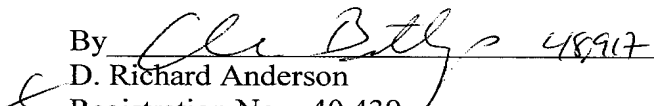
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Paul T. Sewell, Registration No. 61,784, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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